

PROTECTING YOUR CHANNEL ISLANDS



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

FOR FEDERAL REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES:

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

113 Harbor Way, Ste. 150, Santa Barbara, CA 93109
(805) 966-7107

3600 So. Harbor Blvd., Ste. 217, Oxnard, CA 93035
(805) 382-6149, channelislands.noaa.gov

Channel Islands National Park

1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001 (805) 658-5700,
www.nps.gov/chis.

FOR BOATER SAFETY:

United States Coast Guard

111 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara, CA 93109 (805) 962-7430
www.uscg.mil/d11/

FOR FEDERAL FISHING REGULATIONS AND MARINE MAMMAL REGULATIONS:

National Marine Fisheries Service

501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 980-4030, www.swr.nmfs.noaa.gov

FOR STATE FISHING REGULATIONS:

California Department of Fish & Game Marine Region

4665 Lampson Avenue, Suite C,
Los Alamitos, CA 90720
(562) 342-7100, www.dfg.ca.gov
CalTIP to report violations
888-334-2258

FOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND INFORMATION AND ACCESS:

The Nature Conservancy

3639 Harbor Blvd., Suite 201, Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 642-0345, www.nature.org

TO REPORT OIL AND POLLUTION DISCHARGES:

National Response System 800-424-8802

24 HOUR EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

U.S. Coast Guard Search & Rescue.....805-985-9822

Channel Islands Harbor Patrol805-382-3000

Ventura Harbor Patrol805-642-8618

Port Hueneme Wharfinger805-488-4615

Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol805-564-5530

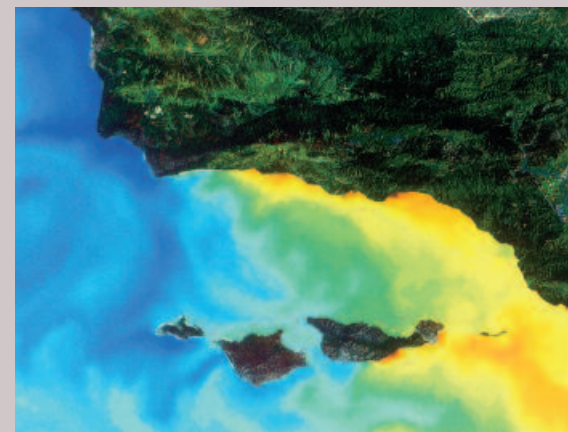
Boaters Use Marine Band Radio VHF CH 16



WELCOME TO THE MAGNIFICENT AND DIVERSE CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY & NATIONAL PARK

Close to the California mainland, yet worlds apart, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and National Park encompass the ocean environment and five of the eight California Channel Islands (Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara). The sanctuary and park bridge two biogeographical provinces, and in a remarkably small area, harbor thousands of species of plants and animals. One hundred and forty-five of these species are found nowhere else in the world. Cultural resources date back 13,000 years.

The islands' remote, isolated position at the confluence of two major ocean currents creates remarkable biodiversity. The mingling of cool, nutrient-rich waters from the north with warm currents from the south form a dynamic transition zone that is home to a myriad of sea life from microscopic plankton to blue whales.



This satellite picture shows the cool (blue) and warm (orange) surface temperature patterns that affect the northern Channel Islands.

Front Cover Photo: Split Level Channel Islands © John D. Brooks
Above: 9/11/94 surface temperature patterns courtesy of Center for Coastal Studies, Scripps Institute of Oceanography; Landsat imagery courtesy of EOSAT, Lanham, MD

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary located off the coast of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in California, is a special marine protected area administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), within the Department of Commerce. The sanctuary encompasses 1,252 square nautical miles of water from mean high tide to 6 nautical miles offshore of Santa Barbara, Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel Islands. The sanctuary is a special place for species close to extinction, sensitive habitats, shipwrecks and maritime heritage artifacts. Many valuable commercial and recreational activities, such as fishing, shipping, and tourism occur in the sanctuary. A comprehensive ecosystem management approach is used to promote long-term conservation of sanctuary waters, wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources, while allowing compatible human uses.

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

The Channel Islands National Park, a special terrestrial and marine protected area of national and global significance, is administered by the National Park Service within the Department of Interior. The park consists of 250,000 acres of land and ocean environment, encompassing Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara Islands, their submerged lands, and the waters within one nautical mile of each island.

Channel Islands National Park monitors and protects threatened and endangered species, restores ecosystems, and preserves the natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.



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CHANNEL ISLANDS MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are sections of the ocean set aside to protect and restore habitats and ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, provide a refuge for sea life, enhance recreational and educational opportunities, provide reference areas for scientists to measure changes elsewhere in the environment, and help rebuild depleted fisheries. There are a variety of types of MPAs, ranging from limited to full protection. California State MPA classifications include:

STATE MARINE RESERVES (SMR):

Prohibit all take of living, geological, or cultural resources. Scientific take may be permitted.

STATE MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS (SMCA): Prohibit specific commercial and/or recreational take of living, geological, or cultural resources on a case-by-case basis. Scientific take may be permitted.

STATE MARINE PARKS (SMP): Prohibit commercial take of living, geological, or cultural resources, and allow recreational fishing although some restrictions may apply. Scientific take may be permitted.

Unless specifically prohibited, non-consumptive activities, such as diving, surfing, swimming, and boating, are allowed within all of the above MPA designations, as long as take restrictions are followed. Anchoring within and transit through the MPAs with catch onboard is allowed, so long as fishing gear is stowed and not in use.

The California Fish and Game Commission designated 12 MPAs in the Channel Islands. The 12 MPAs form a network that covers 146 square nautical miles, approximately 12% of the Sanctuary waters. Ten of the 12 MPAs are no-take marine reserves where no fishing or kelp harvesting is allowed. Two of the 12 MPAs are conservation areas allowing recreational fishing for pelagic fish and lobster. One of these areas also allows commercial lobster trapping. (Please see MPA maps). For more specific information contact the Department of Fish and Game at (916) 653-7664.

Note: Additional fishing restrictions apply; please refer to the Commercial Fish Laws and Licensing Requirements, the Ocean Sport Fishing Regulation Book, and the CA Code of Regulations, Title 14 sec. 632.



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GET INVOLVED

How You Can Have a Positive Effect on the Sanctuary and Park Environment

- ◆ Attend or host a local beach or creek cleanup.
- ◆ Plan or participate in an underwater cleanup.
- ◆ Participate in the Great Annual Fish Count.
- ◆ Educate yourself and others—
 - Enroll in a sanctuary adult education course
 - Attend lectures and films on the Channel Islands
 - Invite staff/experts to lecture at your club or school
 - Expose children to the wonder and beauty of the Islands
- ◆ Join the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps – learn how to educate the public while venturing to the sanctuary and park.
- ◆ Attend or join the Sanctuary Advisory Council and help provide advice to the sanctuary on how best to protect the sanctuary and your interests.
- ◆ Be observant – if you observe vandalism or damage to resources, injuries to marine life, or notice strange substances in the water, please notify the sanctuary or park.
- ◆ Get out there and boat, hike, and get wet!

Your efforts will help us all learn more about and protect the vital resources of the Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Channel. For more information on how to get involved, contact the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary or Channel Islands National Park offices listed in this brochure.



© Claire Johnson

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

113 Harbor Way, Ste. 150, Santa Barbara, CA 93109 (805) 966-7107
 3600 So. Harbor Blvd., Ste. 111, Oxnard, CA 93035 (805) 382-6149
channelislands.noaa.gov

HOW TO ENJOY YOUR SANCTUARY AND PARK

The Channel Islands are a popular destination to observe annual whale and seabird migrations, spectacular wildflowers, and beautiful scenery. The sanctuary and park encourage responsible visitor use when boating, diving, snorkeling, fishing, swimming, kayaking, and wildlife viewing.

DIVING

Towering kelp forests, sea caves, and coves of the Channel Islands offer some of the best diving in the world. Explore the remains of historic shipwrecks that line the ocean floor, but please do not disturb or remove them as they are protected by law.

Resist the temptation to collect shells and rocks, because they provide homes for sea creatures, and good surfaces for young plants and animals to settle out and grow on.

Consider underwater photography as a way to capture the beauty of marine life without depleting these important resources. If you take game, make sure that you obtain proper licensing and are familiar with the local fish and game regulations.

DIVE CAREFULLY—BE GENTLE.

Good buoyancy control is important. Be aware of body and equipment placement. Secure gauges and alternate air so they don't drag along the bottom and cause damage to fragile marine organisms. The swish of a fin over a piece of purple hydrocoral may destroy decades of growth. Also, feeding, touching, and handling marine life may cause stress and interrupt normal mating, and feeding behaviors.

BOATING AND KAYAKING

The Channel Islands offer wonderful kayaking and boating opportunities to explore island sea caves, and enjoy breathtaking views of scenic coastline. Please refer to the Channel Islands National Park newspaper for information on planning a safe, enjoyable and environmentally friendly kayak trip to the Channel Islands.

WATCHING WILDLIFE

The waters around the Channel Islands offer year-round wildlife viewing opportunities.

- ◆ Twenty-seven different species of whales and dolphins visit or call the sanctuary and park home, including the world's largest congregation of blue whales. Other species include fin, humpbacks and gray whales. Common dolphins, orcas and Risso's dolphins also frequent the region.
- ◆ Five species of pinnipeds, including California sea lions, elephant seals, and harbor seals depend on the sanctuary for feeding and breeding.
- ◆ Sixty species of seabirds including the rare Xantus's Murrelet and endangered California Brown Pelican nest, feed, and migrate here.

SOME WATCHABLE WILDLIFE GUIDELINES:

- ◆ Keep your distance.
- ◆ Do not touch any animal even if it appears to be sick, injured, or orphaned.
- ◆ Never feed wild animals.
- ◆ Do not use food, calls, whistles, decoys, or other artificial means to attract wildlife.
- ◆ Leave pets at home – they may startle, chase, and even kill wildlife, and introduce disease/parasites to island species.
- ◆ Respect the right of wildlife viewers.
- ◆ Never get between wildlife and a seaward escape route.
- ◆ Take only memories and photographs, and leave only bubbles or footprints.

Please observe the marine mammal viewing “code of conduct” by remaining at least 100 meters from marine mammals and if approached by a whale, put the engine in neutral and allow the whale to pass. Boat movement should be from the rear of a whale. Federal law prohibits pursuit of marine mammals.

Boaters and kayakers need to be cognizant of different seabird nesting seasons and nesting sites at the Channel Islands. Species of concern like the Xantus' Murrelet, endangered California Brown Pelican, and Pigeon Guillemont, nest on rocky crevices and sea caves. Maintain a safe distance of at least 100 yards (30 m) to avoid disturbing seabirds.

For the best time of year to view different species of wildlife see the Natural Events Calendar at channelislands.noaa.gov/seasons/jan.html.

FISHING

The rich and productive waters of the Channel Islands support both seasonal and year-round fishing opportunities. Anyone 16 years and older must have a valid fishing license to take any kind of fish, mollusk, invertebrate, or crustacean in California. Additionally, an Ocean Enhancement Stamp is required for ocean fishing south of Point Arguello, except when fishing under the authority of a two-day sport fishing license. No fishing is allowed within the marine reserve areas. **See map for further information.**

HIKING

All of the islands offer great hiking opportunities. Please contact the park visitor center at (805) 658-5730 or refer to the annual park newspaper “Island Views: A Visitor's Guide to Channel Islands National Park” for hiking information.

WEATHER

Be aware that the weather in the Channel Islands is in a continuous state of change. Monitor VHF Weather Channel 3 (WX 3) VHF-FM 162.475 Mhz for marine forecasts. For current weather conditions, visit channelislands.noaa.gov, www.nwsla.noaa.gov and the sanctuary weather kiosks in Santa Barbara and Channel Islands Harbors.

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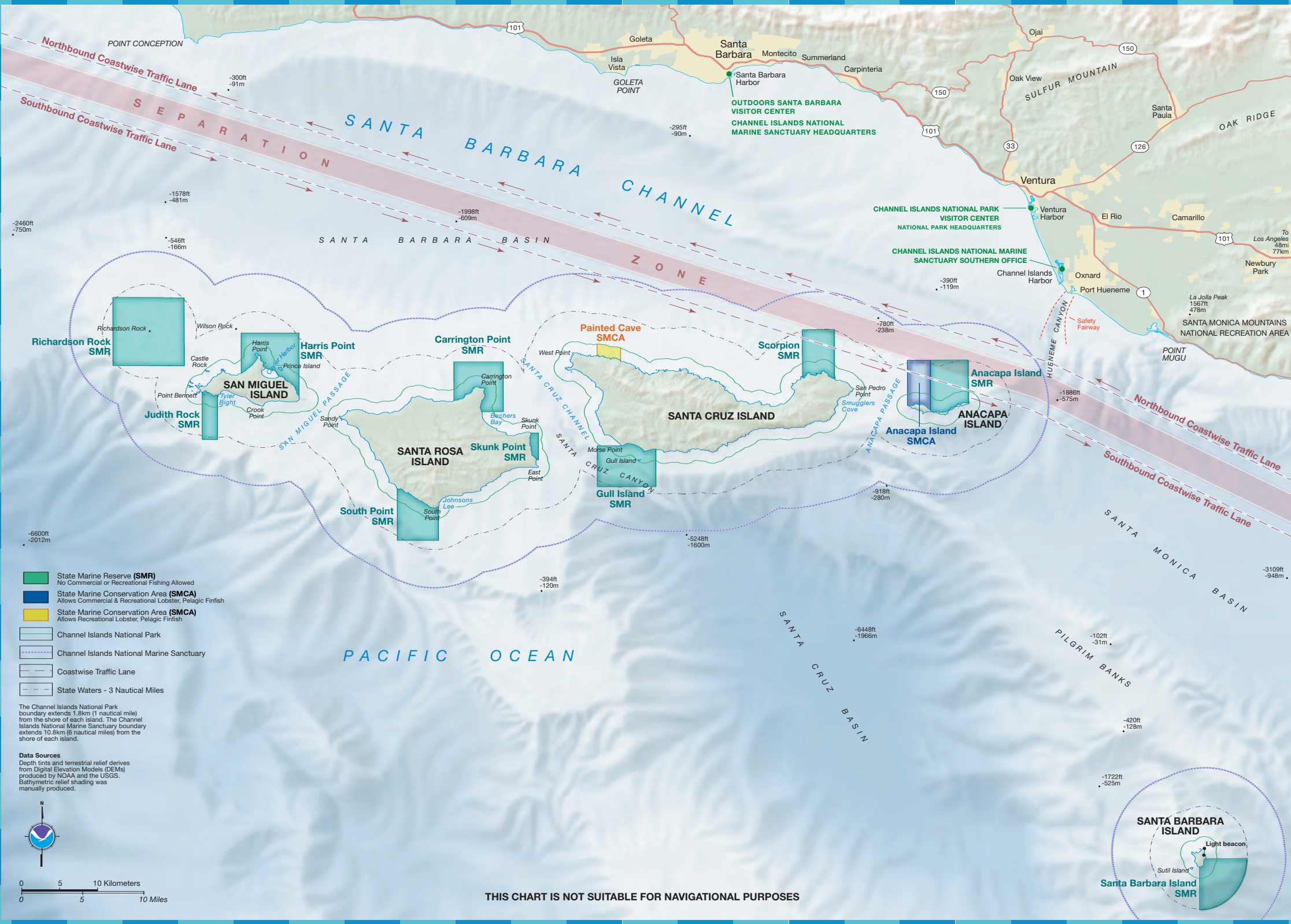
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CINMS

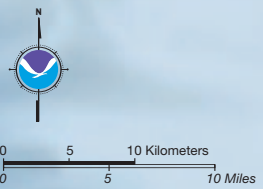




- State Marine Reserve (SMR)
No Commercial or Recreational Fishing Allowed
- State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
Allows Commercial & Recreational Lobster, Pelagic Finfish
- State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
Allows Recreational Lobster, Pelagic Finfish
- Channel Islands National Park
- Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
- Coastwise Traffic Lane
- State Waters - 3 Nautical Miles

The Channel Islands National Park boundary extends 1.8km (1 nautical mile) from the shore of each island. The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary boundary extends 10.8km (6 nautical miles) from the shore of each island.

Data Sources
Depth tints and terrestrial relief derives from Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) produced by NOAA and the USGS. Bathymetric relief shading was manually produced.



THIS CHART IS NOT SUITABLE FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES

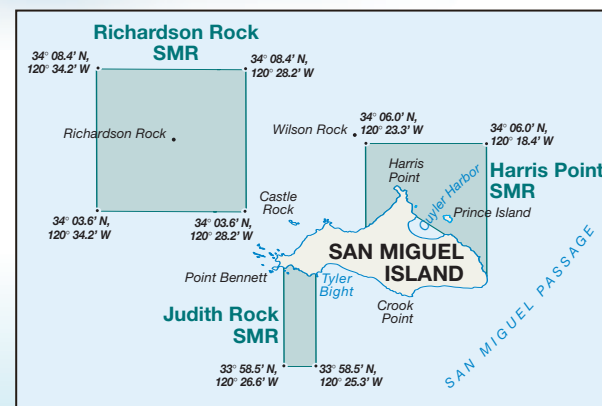


PLEASE NOTE: These maps are not suitable for navigational purposes. The information in this brochure is current as of June, 2005.



San Miguel Island

San Miguel is the westernmost island and is located closest to Point Conception. This weather-beaten island supports an underwater treasure chest of pinnacles covered with multicolored invertebrates. The colder waters support a distinct group of fish and invertebrates that are not found on the southern islands, but are found more commonly north of Point Conception. This island is also an important haul out and breeding site for pinnipeds including the northern elephant seals, California sea lions, and harbor seals.



MAP LEGEND

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Allows Recreational Lobster, Pelagic Finfish
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Allows Commercial & Recreational Lobster, Pelagic Finfish
- Restricted Areas

- Dive Site
- Anchorage
- Shipwreck
- Lighthouse
- Ranger Station
- Self-Guiding Trail
- Restrooms
- Campgrounds
- Pinniped Rookery
- Seabird Colony



Seals and sea lions Pt. Bennett, San Miguel Island.

RICHARDSON ROCK SMR

Critical Habitat:
Offshore pinnacle

Species of Interest:

Diverse assemblage of fishes and marine mammals
Roosting habitat for seabirds
Red (*Haliotis rufescens*) and black (*Haliotis cracherodii*) abalone
Cold-water rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.)

JUDITH ROCK SMR

Critical Habitat:
Kelp Forest
Surfgrass

Species of Interest:

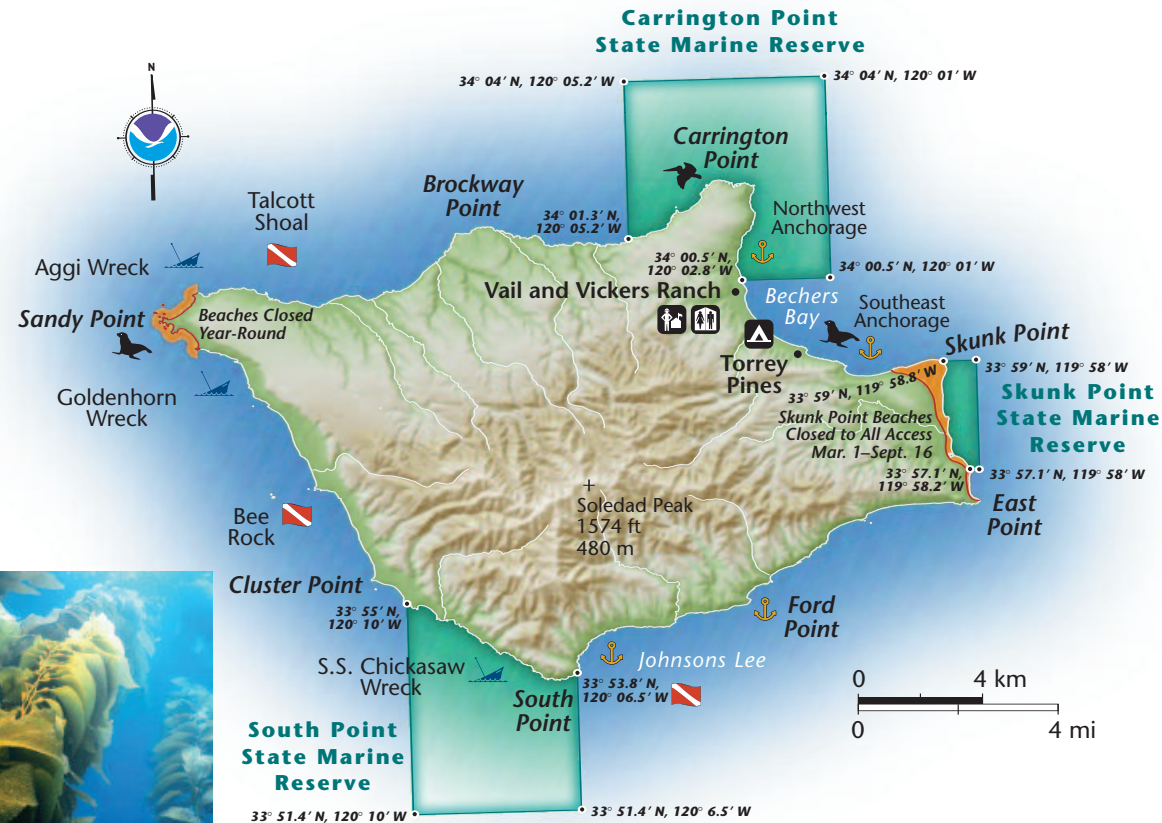
Northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*)
Breeding and roosting site for seabirds
Nearshore rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.)

HARRIS POINT SMR

Critical Habitat:
Kelp Forest
Surfgrass

Species of Interest:

Red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*)
Cold-water rockfish: copper, gopher, black and yellow, blue, black, vermilion (*Sebastes* sp.)
Cassin's Auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*)



© Glenn Allen

Giant kelp
(*Macrocystis pyrifera*)

Santa Rosa Island

Santa Rosa is the second largest of the northern Channel Islands. The island is known for its rolling hills, coastal terraces, windswept sandy beaches, and the islands' largest coastal lagoon. The marine life associated with Santa Rosa Island is influenced by the cold California Current much like San Miguel Island.

SOUTH POINT SMR

Critical Habitat:

Sandy coves
Kelp forest
Surfgrass

Species of Interest:

Northern elephant seals
(*Mirounga angustirostris*)
Nearshore rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.)
Red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*)

CARRINGTON POINT SMR

Critical Habitat:

Kelp forest
Surfgrass
Eelgrass

Species of Interest:

Several rock crab species (*Cancer* sp.)
Nearshore rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.)
Blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*)

SKUNK POINT SMR

Critical Habitat:

Only lagoon in Northern Channel Islands
Kelp forest
Surfgrass
Eelgrass

Species of Interest:

Snowy Plovers
(*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*)
Harbor seal haul out (*Phoca vitulina*)



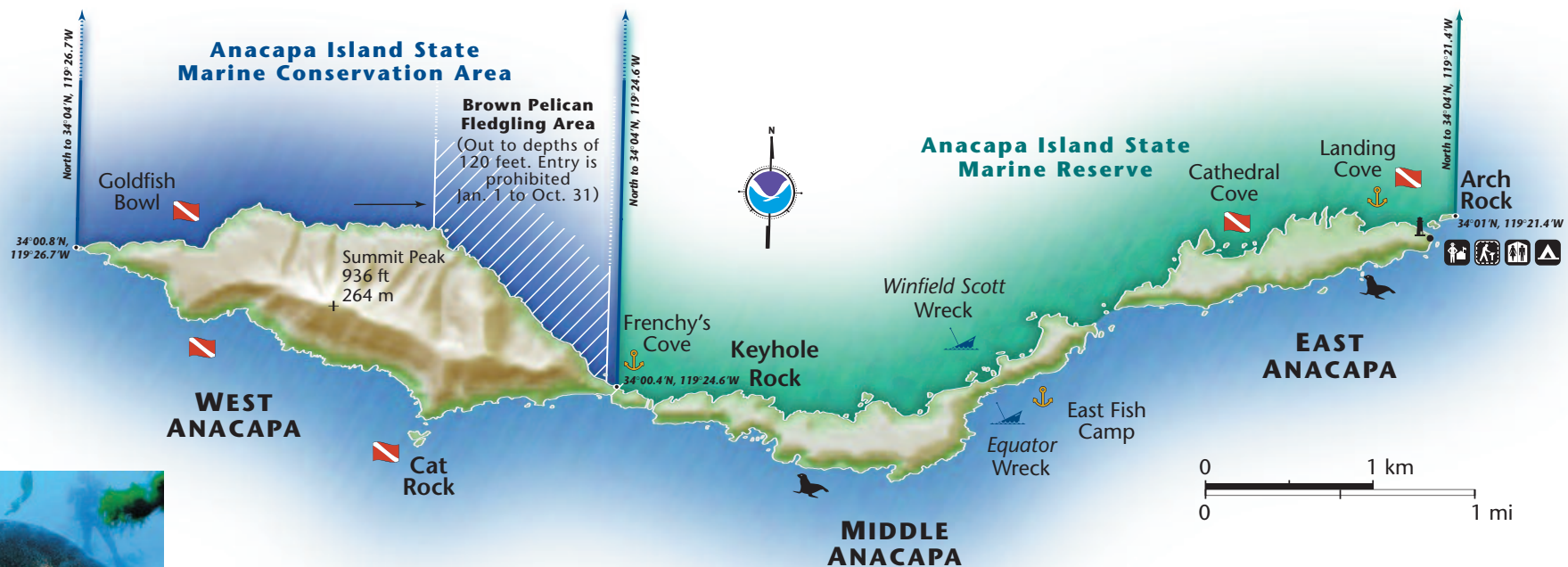
Red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*)

© Laura Francis

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- Restricted Areas

- Dive Site
- Anchorage
- Shipwreck
- Lighthouse
- Ranger Station
- Self-Guiding Trail
- Restrooms
- Campgrounds
- Pinniped Rookery
- Seabird Colony



Giant Sea Bass (*Stereolepis gigas*)

© Ralph A. Clevenger

Anacapa Island

Twelve miles from the mainland a five-mile long spine of rock emerges from the ocean, breaks into three islets, and is home to a wealth of resources. Seabird rookeries for the endangered California Brown Pelican, Western Gull and Xantus's Murrelet are found on Anacapa Island. Seabird nesting sites are also located in many of the Island's 130 sea caves. Visitors must be aware of seasonal closures of seabird nesting areas and caves. California sea lions and harbor seals rest and breed along the rocky shores of Anacapa. Maintain a safe distance of 100 meters to avoid disturbing nesting and pupping sites. No net or traps allowed in waters less than 20 feet deep.

ANACAPA SMCA

Critical Habitat:

Boulder fields
Kelp forest
Surfgrass

Species of Interest:

Nearshore rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.)
Giant sea bass (*Stereolepis gigas*)
Largest breeding and fledgling area for
California Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)
on west coast of North America

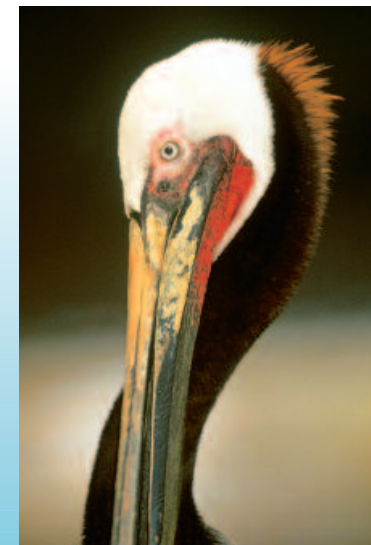
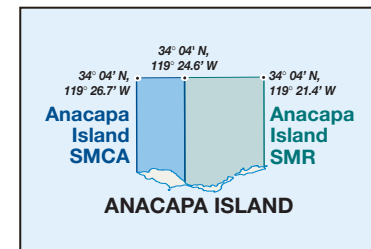
ANACAPA SMR

Critical Habitat:

Kelp Forest
Surfgrass
Emergent rocks

Species of Interest:

Ashy Storm-Petrel
(*Oceanodroma homochroa*)
Squid spawning (*Loligo opalescens*)
Breeding leopard sharks
(*Triakis semifasciata*)



California Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

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- ▬ Dive Site
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- ⚓ Shipwreck
- ⚓ Lighthouse
- 👤 Ranger Station
- 👤 Self-Guiding Trail
- 👤 Restrooms
- 👤 Campgrounds
- 🐾 Pinniped Rookery
- 🐾 Seabird Colony

MAP LEGEND

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Allows Commercial & Recreational Lobster, Pelagic Finfish

Restricted Areas

Dive Site

Anchorage

Shipwreck

Lighthouse

Ranger Station

Self-Guiding Trail

Restrooms

Campgrounds

Pinniped Rookery

Seabird Colony

Santa Barbara Island

Steep cliffs of this smallest island—644 acres or about one square mile—rise above the rocky shores to a grassy mesa flanked with twin peaks. Santa Barbara Island hosts a large California sea lion rookery and over 11 species of seabirds nest along the trails and in the seacliffs, including the endangered California Brown Pelican and rare Xantus’s Murrelet. Visitors must be aware of seasonal closures of seabird nesting areas and caves. Maintain a safe distance of 100 meters to avoid disturbing nesting and pupping sites.

SANTA BARBARA SMR

Critical Habitats:

- Cobble beaches
- Kelp forest
- Surfgrass

Species of Interest:

- Large mussel beds (*Mytilus* sp.)
- White abalone (*Haliotis sorensensi*)
- Xantus’s Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*)

Xantus’s Murrelet chick (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*)

Garibaldi (*Hypsypops rubicundus*)

NPS

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WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Synopsis of Sanctuary and Park Regulations*

Together the State of California, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and National Park protect a wealth of natural and maritime heritage resources and increase awareness through public education, research, and monitoring.

To protect the natural and cultural resources of the sanctuary and park, the following activities are prohibited:

- ◆ Discharging or depositing any material or other matter. Except for fish or chumming materials, water, and other biodegradable effluents incidental to vessel use and generated by marine sanitation devices (i.e. Type I or II only), routine vessel maintenance (e.g., deck wash down), engine exhaust, or meals** on board vessels.

*NOTE—State and federal law prohibits the discharge of untreated sewage within the Sanctuary boundary. **Food wastes may not be discharged within 3 nm, and must be ground to <1 inch between 3-12 nm.*

- ◆ Drilling, dredging, constructing on, or otherwise altering the seabed within two nautical miles of any Island, except for navigational aids, to anchor vessels or to bottom trawl from a commercial fishing vessel. But note that California law prohibits trawling within three nautical miles from shore.
- ◆ Exploring for, developing, and producing hydrocarbons, except for leases executed prior to March 30, 1981 and except for the laying of pipeline.
- ◆ Operating cargo vessels or vessels engaged in the trade or servicing of offshore installations within one nautical mile of any Island.
- ◆ Disturbing marine mammals or birds by flying motorized aircraft at less than 1000 feet over the waters within one nautical mile of any Island.
- ◆ Removing or damaging historical or cultural resources, including shipwrecks and archaeological artifacts.
- ◆ Operating motorized personal watercraft within 1 mile around any Island.
- ◆ Disturbing or harassing seabirds, seals, sea lions, whales, or dolphins. Harassment includes any action that modifies the behavior of birds or mammals.

Camping and Landing on the Islands

Private boaters may land on all five islands within the park year-round. A landing permit is required to access The Nature Conservancy property on Santa Cruz Island; call (949) 263-0933 press 2 or visit www.tnccalifornia.org for an application. Camping permits are required for each island, however no landing permits are required for the islands administered by the National Park Service. Reservations are required for hiking beyond the ranger station at San Miguel Island. Refer to the park newspaper or website for detailed information or contact the island Park

Ranger on Channel 16 before landing. For camping reservations call (800) 365-CAMP (2267).

- ◆ Please be aware that there are no all-weather anchorages around the islands.
- ◆ Visitors are responsible for any damage to the resources.
- ◆ Please note there are park areas that are closed and restricted—refer to the regulations and guidelines section of the park newspaper “Island Views: A Visitor’s Guide To The Channel Islands National Park” and web site.

Island Regulations Include:

- ◆ Collecting, harassing, feeding, or otherwise harming wildlife, plant life, or other natural resources is prohibited.
- ◆ Archeological resources, including Native American sites, shipwrecks, and historical ranch sites, are protected under federal law. It is illegal to disturb or damage these sites in any way.
- ◆ Pets are not allowed on the islands.
- ◆ Beach campfires (including charcoal fires), fireworks, explosives, and firearms are prohibited.

No camping is allowed on Island beaches, except seasonally by permit on Santa Rosa Island. Private aircraft may not land within the park boundaries and all aircraft must maintain a minimum 1000 foot altitude above land and sea surfaces within the park.

To protect wildlife, landing on offshore rocks and islets is prohibited.

Visitors must pack out their own trash. No trash cans are provided.

** This is an abridged version of the regulations and regulations are subject to change. You are responsible for knowing the rules. For sanctuary regulations refer to the Code of Federal Regulations Title 15 sec. 922.70, or call the sanctuary office at (805) 966-7107, or visit channelislands.noaa.gov. For park regulations, refer to the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 and the superintendent’s compendium. Visit www.nps.gov/chis/ for a complete list of regulations, or call the park office at (805) 658-5700. Also be aware that you must comply with all other laws and regulations.*

Fishing

Refer to the current ocean sport fishing regulation book and/or commercial fishing digest for more complete information on regulations including seasonal and area closures, size limits, bag limits, gear restrictions, protected species, and fillet requirements. Pick up a copy of fishing regulations wherever fishing licenses are sold and refer to Title 14, California Code of Regulations and the California Fish and Game Code. Fishing regulations are also posted on the Department of Fish and Game web site at www.dfg.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 227-2232. Please see Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas on maps.